

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DOHA 00380 211236Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06 OES-07 SP-02

SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 PA-01 /122 W

-----070613 211524Z /53

R 211147Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3492

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, QA

SUBJECT: NEW ON-SHORE GAS DISCOVERY IN QATAR

1. MICKEY MERONEY, AMERICAN CITIZEN MANAGER OF SEDCO (SOUTH EAST DRILLING COMPANY) INFORMS THE EMBASSY THAT HIS COMPANY RECENTLY BROUGHT IN A NATURAL GAS WELL WHICH PRODUCES 65 MILLION CUBIC FEET A DAY AT THE SOUTHERN END OF THE DUKHAN OIL FIELD, QATAR'S ONLY ON-SHORE OIL PRODUCING AREA. MERONEY SAID THAT HERETOFORE THE UNASSOCIATED GAS LYING IN KUF FORMATION BELOW THE DUKHAN OIL STRUCTURES HAD BEEN THOUGH TO BE CONCENTRATED AT THE NORTHERN END OF DUKHAN. THE LATEST FIND AT THE SOUTH END INDICATES THAT GAS DEPOSITS IN THE DUKHAN AREA ARE MORE EXTENSIVE THAN PREVIOUSLY BELIEVED. MERONEY SAID THERE ARE OTHER PROMISING GEOLOGICAL FORMATIONS WHICH MAY HOLD GAS SOUTH OF THE PRESENT FIELD. MERONEY HAS HEARD ESTIMATES THAT DUKHAN AREA UNASSOCIATED GAS

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DEPOSITS ARE 13 TRILLION CUBIC FEET, AT LEAST DOUBLE PAST ESTIMATES.

2. COMMENT: QATAR'S ON-SHORE NATURAL GAS HAS BEEN REGARDED AS VERY SMALL COMPARED TO THE ENORMOUS RESERVES IN THE NORTHWEST DOME OFF-SHORE FIELD. HOWEVER, VERY LARGE ON-SHORE DEPOSITS ARE ALSO BEGINNING TO BE REGARDED AS A POSSIBILITY IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT

ALMOST EVERY NEW WELL INTO THE KUF FORMATION PRODUCES NATURAL GAS.
KILLGORE

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TAGS: ENRG, QA, SEDCO, SOUTH EAST DRILLING COMPANY
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